

Vacancy Announcement #DPO-00-020 CRJ

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: Chemist, GS-1320 Band 2
(Band 2 equivalent to GS-11/12, salary range \$42,724 to \$68,897 Per Annum, includes Locality payment for Washington Metropolitan Area)

LOCATION: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Office of Science and Technology
Forensic Science Laboratory - Washington
Arson and Explosive Section
Rockville, MD

Opening Date: September 7, 2000 **Closing Date:** Open Until Filled
(First cutoff October 9, 2000)

NOTE: **ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE U.S. CITIZEN**

Copies of college transcripts clearly indicating required courses described in Basic Requirements for All Grades below must accompany application package in order to be considered for this position.

This position is covered by a Title 5 exemption authority, a special authority approved for the Department of the Treasury by Congress for a Demonstration Project to provide increased flexibilities in hiring and paying employees, including a broad banded system and pay for performance.

Security Clearance is Required

More than one selection may be made from this announcement.

**AREA OF
CONSIDERATION:**

All sources and Veterans who are preference eligible or who have been separated from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service may apply. Competitive examining authority has been delegated to the ATF by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Non-status applications will be forwarded to the Delegated Examining Unit or the Pay Demonstration Project Office for rating, ranking and referral. Career or Career Conditional candidates who wish to be rated under both merit promotion and competitive procedures must submit two complete applications. If only one application is received it will be considered under merit promotion.

DUTIES: This position is located in the Forensic Science Laboratory within the Office of Science and Technology. The incumbent is responsible for the analysis of forensic evidence from criminal investigations of bombings and/or arsons. The chemist must have expertise in one or more specialized areas such as the identification of explosive residues, fire debris, or trace evidence (i.e. fibers, glass, paint, hair etc.) Duties include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Examines a large variety of physical evidence submitted in connection with criminal cases using chemical, physical and instrumental techniques. The evidence includes explosives, accelerants, and a variety of trace evidence such as hair, fibers, paint, glass, metals and plastics.
- ◆ Advises and assists special agents at crime scenes where expertise will help the investigation. Sets priorities and guidelines for the collection, preservation and transmittal of scientific evidence.
- ◆ Determines from the evidence submitted, the type of criminal offense, the problem to be solved, and the chemical and physical properties of the substances involved, determines the specific data to be obtained and the approach, methods, and procedures to use. Minor adaptations and modifications of existing methods are occasionally necessary to satisfy

unusual requirements and to solve specific problems.

- ◆ Conducts training related to specialty areas. Designs curriculum, prepares lesson plans, instructs, and evaluates students.
- ◆ May represent the laboratory on scientific issues in regional meetings, negotiations with government officials, members of industry, ranking law enforcement officials, and professional organizations or associations.
- ◆ Prepares documents which may be accepted for publication in professional journals and scientific publications.
- ◆ Compiles accurate data and interprets the analytical results. Prepares laboratory reports with conclusions supported by the analytical data.
- ◆ Provides expert court testimony on the basis of laboratory examinations. Advises prosecutors on the appropriate approach to use in presenting scientific testimony. Assists the prosecutor in the preparation of questions.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must meet all qualifications, including time-in-grade requirements, **within 30 days of the closing date of this announcement.** Applicants must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade in the Federal service in addition to the following:

Basic Requirements for All Grades: (A) Candidates must have a full 4 year course in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's degree (or higher) in one of the physical or life sciences, or a degree in engineering which includes 30 semester hours in chemistry, supplemented by the course work in mathematics through differential and integral calculus, and at least 6 semester hours of physics.

OR

(B) Combination of education and experience – course work equivalent to a major as shown in A above, including at least 30 hours in chemistry, supplemented by mathematics through differential and integral calculus, and at least 6 semester hours of physics, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Substitution of Education: Completion of all requirements for a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or equivalent) may be creditable for the lower level of the pay band.

EVALUATION METHODS: Status applicants will be evaluated and given points on relevant experience; formal college level education; training and self-development within the past five years; QSI, SSP, Special Act and Suggestion awards; current performance appraisal; and the Supplemental Experience Statement. Non-status applicants will be evaluated on relevant experience and the Supplemental Experience Statement. The following factors in the Supplemental Experience Statement will be used as the basis for determining the best qualified applicants.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCE STATEMENT

Describe your work experience, training and/or awards, volunteer experience or hobbies. Provide detailed evidence of each of the factors and show how and when they were used. Include clear, concise examples that show level of accomplishments and degree of responsibility.

1. Knowledge of chemical principles, theories, practices and laboratory methods and procedures to perform a full range of forensic chemical analysis on various types of physical evidence which is complex and unprecedented in nature.
2. Skill in developing and modifying methods for the analysis of a wide variety of physical evidence of a complex nature and to solve problems in relation to programs which have unusual or unprecedented requirements.
3. Skill in operating a wide variety of sophisticated laboratory instrumentation such as GCMS, GC, GC/TEA, EGIS, IR, HPLC, IC, CE, PLM, Microspectrophotometry, microscopy, SEM, XRF, XRD and GRIM II in the analysis of a wide variety of physical evidence.
4. Knowledge of proper crime scene processing techniques including collection and preservation of a wide variety of evidence, and an understanding of the potential evidentiary value of items to be collected and processed.
5. Ability to write clear, concise laboratory reports with conclusions supported by the analytical data, and to present clear,

convincing expert court testimony under potentially rigorous cross examination.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The following statements are applicable if checked:

- ☒ A pre-employment background investigation is required.
- ☒ Incumbent must be a U.S. citizen.
- ☒ Male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must be registered with the Selective Service System.
- ☒ Non-ATF applicants will not be reimbursed for travel and relocation expenses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Applications will not be returned to applicants.
2. Applications must be received by the closing date of this announcement. The postmarked date will be considered for those persons applying as non-status applicants for "All Sources" announcements.

HOW TO APPLY

- A. Candidates may submit a resume; SF-171, Application for Federal Employment; or OF-612, Optional Application for Federal Employment. The OF-612 may be obtained by contacting us at the address and telephone number below, or by dialing into the Office of Personnel Management's electronic bulletin board system at 912-757-3100, through Internet, (Telnet connections only at FJOB.Mail.OPM.GOV). The SF-171 is no longer available for distribution.

Your application **must** contain the following information:

1. Title series, grade and vacancy announcement of the vacancy for which you wish to be considered.
2. Full name, social security number and mailing address.
3. Daytime and evening telephone numbers.
4. For experience most relevant to this position, include name of employer, dates of employment, job title, grade (if applicable), start and end dates and a description of duties and responsibilities.
5. Average hours worked for each position if other than 40 hours per week.
6. Name, location and date of high school and college attended.
7. Type of degree, if any, date received, GPA, major/minor field of study.
8. Relevant training: course titles, dates, number of hours and institutions.
9. Description and year of awards, honors, and special qualifications such as language, computer skills, typing speed.
- 10 Clear identification of U.S. citizenship.

- B. Additional information/completed forms should be submitted, if checked:

- ☒ Written response to the Supplemental Experience Statement.
- ☒ DD-214, if claiming 5 point preference. (For non-status consideration only.)
- ☒ Both DD 214 and SF-15, if claiming 10 point preference. (For non-status consideration only.)
- ☒ College transcripts or lists of college courses.
- ☒ Background Survey Questionnaire (Optional). Information submitted will be used for statistical reports only.
- ☒ OPM Form 306, Declaration for Federal Employment.
- ☒ Current/former Federal employees - SF-50 reflecting competitive status.
- ☒ Applicants with disability or veterans eligible for non-competitive appointment. Provide appropriate documentation.
- ☒ Self-initiated training and self-development taken within past five years (courses, training sessions or seminars that are three or more days in length.) Provide month/year of class, title and length of class. (For status consideration only.)

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Position Management Branch, Room 4350
Attention: Cheryl Jenkins
650 Massachusetts Ave NW

Washington, DC 20226
(202) 927-6489 TDD users call (202) 927-7964.

You may also use web-site www.usajobs.opm.gov to find out about other job opportunities.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ALL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE CONSIDERATION REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, POLITICS, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RELIGION, OR ANY OTHER NONMERIT REASON.